



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 54

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Have Your Friends Discovered America?

American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General,
Shanghai, China
1038 West Nanjing Road,
8/F Westgate Mall

梅龙镇广场 (Méi Lóng
Zhèn Guǎng Chǎng)

Open 8:00am - 11:30am
and 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Monday to Friday

*Closed on Wednesday
afternoons, weekends,
and holidays.

Homepage:

[shanghai.usembassy-
china.org.cn/service.html](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html)

After Hours Emergencies:
(86-21) 3217-4650

When was the last time you told your Chinese and other foreign friends about your home town? Some of the best "ambassadors" for many cities and states that make up America are people like you who share their unique insights about the sights, sounds, and flavors that make their hometowns truly distinctive. By simply taking the time to talk about their own corners of the USA, Americans overseas can help their friends "Discover America."

The U.S government has coordinated with domestic public and private partners to develop the "Discover America" program, which is designed to inspire travelers from all over the world to explore the boundless travel opportunities America has to offer. As part of this program, the "50 States in 50 Days" event was started on June 1, with each day spotlighting a different state.

You can help by telling your Chinese and other friends overseas about your home state! For more informa-

tion visit www.thebrandusa.com and Discoveramerica.com.

Brand USA was established by the Travel Promotion Act in 2010 to spearhead the nation's first global marketing effort to promote the United States as a premier travel destination and communicate U.S. entry/exit policies and procedures. Brand USA works in close partnership with the travel industry to maximize the economic and social benefits of travel.

Brand USA aims to reap benefits for all 50 states and the U.S. territories, including areas not traditionally visited by international travelers. Marketing will showcase attractions from all across the United States, including those that are "off the beaten path" in an attempt to create a trickle-down effect as we encourage first-time and repeat visitation. This work will be particularly beneficial to the vast array of destinations and businesses that cannot currently afford to market themselves to international destinations.

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Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our holiday closings is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

September 3, Monday: Labor Day (美国劳动节 Měiguó Láodòng Jié)

Air Quality Monitor at U.S. Consulate Shanghai

The U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai has recently installed a PM2.5 air quality monitor to measure fine particles in the air at its Huai Hai Middle Road compound.

Data from this monitor are used to calculate the Air Quality Index (AQI)

which provides a health resource for the American community.

If you would like to view our data, please look for us on Twitter (@cgshanghaiair) or view our website at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/airmonitor.html>.



Leaving Shanghai Consular District?

If you are departing the Shanghai consular district after a long stay here and you formally joined the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), please do not forget to end your enrollment when you leave.

You can end your enrollment by visiting the <https://travelregistration.state.gov> site if you previously enrolled through this site.

If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate, you may end your enrollment by sending an email request to:

ShanghaiACS@state.gov.

Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries:

<u>Central African Republic</u>	07/11/2012
<u>Kenya</u>	07/05/2012
<u>Afghanistan</u>	06/27/2012

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

Bahrain 06/26/2012

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at :

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html.

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm.

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html.

Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

Child Traveling with One Parent or Someone Who Is Not A Parent or Legal Guardian

(From cbp.gov)

If a child (under the age of 18) is traveling with only one parent or someone who is not a parent or legal guardian, what paperwork should the adult have to indicate permission or legal authority to have that child in their care?

Due to the increasing incidents of child abductions in disputed custody cases and as possible victims of child pornography, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) strongly recommends that unless the child is accompanied by both parents, the adult have a note from the child's other parent (or, in the case of a child traveling with grandparents, uncles or aunts, sisters or brothers, friends, or in groups*, a note signed by both parents) stating:

"I acknowledge that my wife/husband/etc. is traveling out of

the country with my son/daughter/group. He/She/They has/have my permission to do so." CBP also suggests that this note be notarized.

Parental consent/permission letter

What should a parental consent/permission letter look like? Is there a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) form?

There is not a CBP Form letter, however, the parental consent letter should include: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and contact information for the absent parent(s).

Having the letter notarized is not necessary but highly recommended. For frequent border crossers, the letter should not exceed one year. It is recommended to have the letter in English.

While CBP may not ask to see this documentation, if they do ask, and you do not have it, you may be detained until the circumstances of the child traveling without both parents can be fully assessed. If there is no second parent with legal claims to the child (deceased, sole custody, etc.) any other relevant paperwork, such as a court decision, birth certificate naming only one parent, death certificate, etc., would be useful.

Adults traveling with children should also be aware that, while the U.S. does not require this documentation, many other countries do; failure to produce notarized permission letters and/or birth certificates could result in travelers being refused entry (Canada has very strict requirements in this regard).

* School groups, teen tours, vacation groups.

A Safety Reminder: Scams in China

American Citizens are reminded to be cautious of confidence schemes, usually operated by Chinese nationals who will approach foreigners in tourist areas.

Usually these schemes will involve an invitation to a secondary location, either for a social visit (viewing a tea ceremony, "practicing English,") or for seemingly low-priced massages. At the conclusion of the ceremony or service, the forcing citizen will then be presented with a bill much higher than reasonable or anticipated, or for services not requested or rendered. Intimidation, threats of physical violence or additional charges are not unusual in situations where the for-

eign citizen refused to pay immediately.

If forced to pay, American Citizens should call the police and the credit-card company as soon as possible to report the crime.

Some General Safety Advice:

- Shanghai is a big city with big city problems.
- It is not a good idea at home; it is probably not a good idea here.
- Remember that scammers have the ability to mimic phone numbers to fool callers. You cannot always

trust the number of the incoming call.

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Look at the people close to **you and watch out for "accidental"** nudging and touching.
- Think about leaving valuable and extra cash behind in a safe place when you go out.
- **Don't carry all your valuable, cash, credit cards, etc in one pocket or bag – distribute.**
- Enter into your phone: 110 (police) and 962288 (bilingual assistance).

Local News: China's New Exit-Entry Law Targets Illegal Foreigners

(From China Briefing, July 6, 2012, By Yao Lu)

Jul. 6 – With the aim of curbing the illegal entry, stay and employment of foreigners as well as clarifying punishments for people who enter, live or work in the country illegally, China's top legislature, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), concluded its 27th meeting and passed a new Exit-Entry Administration Law on June 30.

The new Exit-Entry Administration Law is enacted to cope with the rising trend of immigration and to target new problems and situations faced by the Exit-Entry Administration. The new law integrates and improves upon the two already existing laws (the PRC Law on the Control of the Exit and Entry of Citizens and the PRC Law on the Control

of the Exit and Entry of Aliens), and has several new features. The new Exit-Entry Administration Law will take effect on **July 1, 2013**, with the two previous laws scheduled to be abolished concurrently.

Exerting harsher punishments

Illegal employment sanctions

According to the new law, employers will be fined RMB10,000 for every foreigner they illegally employ up to a maximum fine of RMB100,000. Any monetary gains that have resulted from the employment of such individuals will also be forfeit.

Illegal working sanctions

The new law stipulates that foreigners should obtain the

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Local News: Police Want Action Against Phone 'Spoofing' Scams

(From Shanghai Daily, June 14, 2012, By Ni Yinbin)

SHANGHAI police are calling on telecom administrators to stop service to suspected clients who use Internet phone calls to scam residents in China.

Police said suspects take advantage of the ability to call with their number blocked or a false number shown - a practice called "spoofing" - in order to confuse victims. In a typical recent case, a woman surnamed Zhou was cheated out of 4.2 million yuan (US\$659,236) after she received a phone call with the number of a police department in Beijing.

Zhou said she got the phone call on May 4 with the number starting with 010, the regional code of Beijing, from someone who claimed to be from the economic crime investigation department of Beijing police. The caller said Zhou's social security account was overdrawn and might be involved with a money laundering case and asked Zhou to cooperate with the police investigation. Zhou checked the caller number with 114, a yellow pages hotline, and was told that the caller's number belongs to Beijing police.

Several minutes later, the caller rang Zhou again, who by this time trusted the caller, Zhou was asked to transfer all her money to a safe account offered by the "police." She did so, transferring all the savings of her family plus money borrowed from friends and relatives. The caller

turned out to be a scammer using a function offered by the telecom operator to mimic the police number, Shanghai police said. The case was still under investigation.

To attract clients, telecom operators enable clients to set the incoming number they want to be displayed on the phone of someone they call. This service can be used as a tactic by suspects, said Wei Jian, an anti-telecom scam expert of Shanghai police.

"The first step of the suspects is making calls, most of them called with servers overseas," Wei said. "This year we had eight cases with stolen money reaching over 1 million yuan and all the victims received the calls with a false number." But Wei also said the trick was not hard to see through as long as the receiver of the call dials back the number to check it. Shanghai police said they have detained more than 270 suspects this year in hundreds of telecom scam cases and helped to stop 1,780 potential cases, keeping 91 million yuan from possibly being stolen.

Update: ACS Shanghai has received reports from Americans living in China of similar scams. Bottom line, you can not always trust that a phone call is truly coming from the number appearing on your phone. If you are concerned about your bank accounts, it's best to contact your bank or the local authorities directly.

Local News: Illegal Foreign Domestic Workers Using Fake Visas For Work

(From Shanghai Daily, July 10, 2012, By Zhao Wen)

LOCAL judges are reminding both locals and foreigners not to hire foreign domestic helpers, as the employer will face serious punishment for violating Chinese law.

But Filipino maids, renowned for their skills as nannies, are still popular in the city. Many maids are seeking ways to keep their jobs here, some even to the point of sticking fake work visas to their passports.

Last week, a Shanghai man who provided forged visas to some 10 Filipino maids overstaying visas in Shanghai and neighboring cities was sentenced to one year in prison and fined 5,000 yuan (US\$785) by Changning District People's Court for providing forged entry and exit documents.

Peng Hao, 32, was an agent specialized in introducing Filipino maids and he provided fake visas to foreign domestic helpers whose visas had been out of date for up to three years.

Between July 2010 and June 2011, Peng said he helped some 10 Filipino maids get fake visas and arranged work for them. "The maids knew their visas were forged but their employers didn't," Peng told the court.

Peng was caught in September after one of his Filipino maids, surnamed Amparo, reported him to the police. The woman said she was given a fake visa and was unable to go back to her country.

Police seized 10 foreign passports with forged Chinese visas and a forged police seal at Peng's home in Zhujiajiao in the city's suburban Qingpu District.

Hiring foreign domestic helpers is legal in Hong Kong and Taiwan but not in China's mainland. Yet underground agencies like Peng's have arisen as the demand

for Filipino maids, well-known for their English and house-keeping skills, rises as more expat families have settled here and local families have gotten richer.

Peng said he bought the fake visas from an illegal vendor at 1,200 yuan each and he charged every employer from 18,000 yuan to 20,000 yuan for agent and visa fees.

"I used to pay some other agencies to get real visas, but the fee goes up to around 8,000 yuan for a six-month travel visa. It was too much and I don't want to take the trouble of taking the maids to some other cities for visa interviews," Peng told prosecutors.

Almost all Filipino housemaids have visas allowing them to stay in China for up to six months but not to work. "The problem is how to keep them here and keep their job steady," Peng said.

A common practice is that the maid leaves for Hong Kong and comes back to the mainland with a new visa, which could be very costly.

Peng chose to use fake visas and he was ready to pay fines for Filipino maids if they were caught staying too long in the country. He said he would give the maids up to 7,000 yuan to let them try to fix their problems themselves.

In China, the average monthly income for a Filipino domestic helper is 3,500 yuan. "The maids don't want to leave because they earn a fairly good living here," Peng said.

Three Filipino maids including Amparo have been given a five-day detention term for an illegal stay before they are deported, the court said.

It was unknown whether their employees had been fined or not, but according to Chinese law, the employer will face a fine of between 5,000 yuan to 50,000 yuan for hiring foreigners without work permits.

2012 Milu Guide Available



The New Milu has arrived! Published for the 3rd time since 2009, this guide book has found its readers among Shanghai's foreign newcomers. For newcomers, the challenges remain the same: understand a different culture and language, a very specific working environment where competition is fierce and a very different civil and corporate law system.

As the last edition, the 2012 guide covers key topics such as education, working, leisure activities, local law and health.

It's free (paid for by advertising by local businesses). You can download it at milu-guide.com or pick up a copy around town.

Local News: China's New Exit-Entry Law Targets Illegal Foreigners

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required identity and employment documents when they are working in China. Any expat caught working in China without valid employment documents could be fined between RMB5,000 and 20,000, with detention also possible in serious cases.

Fines and detention for illegal stay

Foreigners staying in the country illegally will be given a warning before being fined, however fines in severe cases may be as high as RMB10,000 and individuals could face detention times of between 5 to 15 days, according to the new law.

Deportation

Foreign nationals found guilty of illegal entry, illegal residence or working illegally in the country may be repatriated and will not be allowed to re-enter China for a five-year period. Foreigners who violate China's laws and regulations and are deemed "unsuitable" to stay will be given an exit deadline to depart voluntarily. Those who commit "severe violations" that do not constitute crimes may be deported and not allowed to enter the country again for a 10-year period. The new law further states that people who assist in such illegal acts will also be punished.

Strengthening supervision and management

Length of residence certificates

Foreigners' work-related residence certificates will be valid for a minimum of 90 days and a maximum of five years, according to the new law. Non-work-related residence certificates will be valid for a minimum of 180 days and a maximum of five years. For foreigners holding visas with a

maximum stay of 180 days, the holders should hand in documents to government above the departments county level to apply for an extension seven days before the certificate expires, adding that the length of the extension should not exceed the originally permitted duration.

Request for biometric data

Foreigners seeking residency must provide their fingerprints and "other biometric data" to the public security bureau (PSB). In addition, the PSB and Ministry of Foreign Affairs may, with the State Council's approval, promulgate regulations to collect such biometric data from persons exiting and entering the country.

Obligation to report

Units or personnel employing foreigners or enrolling foreign students should report employment information to the local police departments. Meanwhile, citizens are encouraged to report clues to the authorities regarding foreigners who may work and live in China illegally.

Restrictions over residence and working locations of foreigners

The law also allows the Chinese government to restrict foreigners and foreign entities from establishing residences or workplaces in certain locations. If already established in banned areas, they could be given deadlines to move.

Improving facilitation and convenience

Although the new Exit-Entry Administration Law stipulates harsher punishments for foreigners who illegally enter, live or work in China, at the same time, it also aims to better facilitate and offer more convenience

to foreigners who choose to take the proper legal route.

Introduction of "talent visas"

The new law introduces a new category of visas, termed "talent visas," which underlines the country's increasing efforts to attract high-caliber talented individuals from overseas to assist in the country's development. The new law further states that foreigners who make "outstanding contributions" to China will be granted permanent residence.

Extension of ordinary visa

The new law allows longer visa-free stopovers and more temporary entries based on international conventions and humanitarian considerations in order to attract more tourists and business people.

Ordinary visas will be granted to foreigners who enter the country to work, study, visit relatives, travel or conduct business, as well as to those who qualify for the above-mentioned "talent visa."

Improvement of "green card" system

The new law further improves China's "green card" system and paves the way for further relaxing of the requirements on permanent residency, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

Introduction of treatment of refugees

For the first time, China has added provisions to its domestic law regarding the treatment of refugees. The new law allows refugees to stay in China after obtaining an ID card from public security authorities. Asylum-seekers will also be allowed to use a temporary ID card to stay in the country while their refugee status is under examination.